

## **PUBLIC SHADE TREE COMMITTEE**

Fiscal Year 2007

The Committee would like to thank Stanley Ziomek for his 38 years of service as Tree Warden. He has been responsible for the planting of hundreds of trees and the monitoring of all of the street and park trees of Amherst. In a town that can be very trying for its public officials, Stan has shown a respect for people and a great sense of humor. Thank you, Stan.

The Committee would also like to welcome Alan Snow as the new Tree Warden. The Town is very fortunate to have a new tree warden who is without question one of the most qualified in New England. In addition to his work experience as the State's urban forester, Alan is a Massachusetts Certified Arborist and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts's Urban Forestry program. Welcome, Mr. Snow.

The Public Shade Tree Committee, in cooperation with the Tree Warden, has been working on the following projects during the past year:

### **The New Tree Bylaw:**

The Committee brought to 2007 spring Town Meeting a proposed tree bylaw that would help increase the Town's ability to plant new trees in sustainable locations. This warrant article was referred back to the Committee for future Town Meeting action. This bylaw would develop a process to allow for the removal of public shade trees, when deemed reasonable by the Tree Warden, in exchange for an inch-for-inch tree replacement. The Committee is making every effort to educate the residents and businesses of Amherst on the importance of this bylaw and the benefits the community forest provides the Town.

### **Inventory:**

The Committee is working with the Tree Warden to help the Town apply for a grant to hire a graduate student to perform a street tree inventory of selected roads in town. This inventory will be incorporated into the Town's GIS system and its continued use by Town departments, to promote a sustainable community forestry program.

### **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree Planting Goal:**

The Committee is working with the Tree Warden to accomplish his tree planting project:

- 250 Trees for Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup>
- over the next year continue to develop a bare-root tree planting program, for Arbor Day 2009, to plant 250 trees in town
- develop a list of residents who would like to make a donation to plant a tree along Town roads within 20 feet of the public way to celebrate the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- find a nursery that can deliver the bare-root trees.

H. Dennis Ryan, Chairman

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee